



State Board of Equalization

# News Release

**Michelle Steel, Member**

**3<sup>rd</sup> District – Rolling Hills Estates**

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## **MICHELLE STEEL SAYS GAS USE RISES IN MAY**

*(Rolling Hills Estates)* – Board of Equalization Member Michelle Steel, Southern California's elected taxpayer advocate, today announced that gasoline use rose in May 2007. Consumption totals grew by 10.5 million gallons, approximately 0.8 percent from the same period of last year. April figures, released earlier this year, showed dropping consumption. *(Editor's note – see chart on second page).*

May's gas sales generated approximately \$345.7 million in sales tax during that month, an estimated \$17.6 million more than were generated in May 2006.

Over the past five years, Californians have used an average of 15.7 billion gallons of gasoline annually. During the 2006 calendar year Californians consumed 15.83 billion gallons, down from 15.94 billion a year earlier.

The Board estimates that nearly twice as much sales tax is generated annually by higher gasoline prices than five years ago. In 2006, sales tax revenues from gasoline sales were estimated to be \$3.2 billion, while 2002's gasoline sales generated \$1.7 billion. The State's excise tax, 18 cents collected on every gallon, has remained relatively stable.

The publicly-elected Board is able to monitor gallons through tax returns filed by fuel companies. Figures for June 2007 will be available near the end of september. All monthly, quarterly and annual figures can be viewed at <http://www.boe.ca.gov/sptaxprog/reports/imvf10ynet.pdf>.

Elected to the Board of Equalization in 2006, Michelle Steel serves as the country's highest ranking Korean-American elected official. She represents the over 8.5 million taxpayers of the Third Board of Equalization District, including the counties of Los Angeles, Orange, San Diego, Riverside, Imperial and San Bernardino.

*The five-member Board of Equalization is a publicly elected tax board. The Board collects nearly \$53 billion annually in taxes and fees supporting state and local government services. It hears business tax appeals, acts as the appellate body for franchise and personal income tax appeals, and plays a significant role in the assessment and administration of property taxes.*

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